

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 081549

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, DR

SUBJECT: OAS SEC GEN CANDIDACY OF FON SEC GOMEZ BERGES

REF: SANTO DOMINGO 1458

1. DEPARTMENT CONCURS IN SUGGESTED EMBASSY REPLY (REFTEL)
TO RENEWED GODR INITIATIVE SEEKING USG SUPPORT FOR OAS
SECRETARY GENERAL CANDIDACY OF FOREIGN SECRETARY GOMEZ
BERGES.

2. ON APRIL 4 DOMINICAN AMBASSADOR HORACIO VICIOSO SOTO
SENT TO THE DEPARTMENT THE FOLLOWING NOTE (ORIGINAL IN
SPANISH): "THE AMBASSADOR OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC PRE-
SENTS HIS COMPLIMENTS TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE SECRETARY OF
STATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND REITERATES THE
REQUEST FOR SUPPORT OF THE CANDIDACY OF DOMINICAN FOREIGN
SECRETARY VICTOR GOMEZ BERGES FOR SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS) WHICH WAS MADE IN
THE MEETING WHICH HE HAD MORE THAN A MONTH AGO WITH DEPUTY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
HARRY SHLAUDEMAN.

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"HAVING IN MIND THAT THE FIFTH OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN

WHICH THAT ELECTION WILL TAKE PLACE IS NEAR AT HAND, THE DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT OF

STATE GIVING ITS BEST AND MOST FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION TO THIS REQUEST FOR SUPPORT. (COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE.)"

3. IN INFORMAL DISCUSSION WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICER THAT EVENING, AMBASSADOR VICIOSO STRESSED THE FACT THAT NOTE WAS LOW-KEY REITERATION OF PREVIOUS DEMARCHE O DEPARTMENT IN VIEW OF UPCOMING OAS SEC GEN ELECTION. HE AGAIN STRESSED DESIRE OF GODR TO KNOW WHAT US POSITION WOULD BE SHOULD GOMEZ BERGES SECURE ELEVEN VOTES ON FIRST BALLOT, JUST ONE SHORT OF ELECTION. HE REITERATED DOMINICAN APPREHENSION THAT STALEMATE ON FIRST BALLOT WOULD QUICKLY DEGENERATE INTO WRANGLING OVER THE OAS LEADERSHIP POSITION. WHEN IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT THIS WAS A HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION, VICIOSO SAID HE BELIEVED IT WOULD NOT BE SO HYPOTHETICAL SHOULD ONE OF THE PRESENT CANDIDATES (SUGGESTING PARAGUAYAN MINISTER SAPENA PASTOR) DROP OUT, FREEING CONSIDERABLE VOTES.

4. VICIOSO CLAIMS THAT PRESENTLY US REMAINS ONLY UNCOMMITTED MEMBER OF OAS ON VOTE. NEW GODR INITIATIVE HE CONFIDED WAS NOT NECESSARILY AIMED AT BRINGING ABOUT A PUBLIC US COMMITMENT AT THIS TIME TO DOMINICAN CANDIDACY. IT WAS DIRECTED MORE AT ENCOURAGING US TO WEIGH ITS POSITION ON FIRST BALLOT SHOULD IT BE FACED WITH SITUATION IN WHICH IT WOULD HOLD DECISIVE VOTE AND TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBLE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES OF AN ABSTENTION UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES.

5. COMMENT: OUR PRESENT COUNT IS SAPENA PASTOR 9 FIRST-BALLOT COMMITMENTS, GARCIA BEDOYA OF PERU 2 AND GOMEZ 7 (BARBADOS, COSTA RICA, DR, HAITI, HONDURAS, MEXICO AND TRINIDAD). THE COUNTRIES WHICH ARE COMMITTED TO NONE OF THESE OFFICIAL CANDIDATES, AS FAR AS WE KNOW, ARE COLOMBIA, JAMAICA, PANAMA, THE US AND VENEZUELA. KISSINGER

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